

Advent Companion 2020

The season of Advent is a time of waiting and watching... commemorating the anticipation of the Israelites awaiting the Messiah and remembering the promise that Jesus will one day return to take us to himself. But it is also a time to be extra mindful that the Lord wishes to come and make a home in our hearts this day and every day.

As we enter into this beautiful season of Advent, we wanted to provide you with a resource to help you enter more fully into this period of preparation through spending a little bit of time each day in prayer and reflection. If you do not already have one, we encourage you to **get a journal or notebook** that you can use throughout the entire season of Advent. Each day we will provide you with a passage of scripture from the readings for that day and a few reflection questions – we encourage you to take 10 minutes writing your thoughts and responses in your journal, and to conclude with a written prayer. We pray that by doing this, your mind and heart will be better prepared to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on December 25th.

Daily Reflections for the 4th Week of Advent

SUNDAY (12/20)

“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father” (Luke 1:31-32).

- Jesus is the culmination of God’s plan of salvation and the fulfillment of God’s promise to dwell with his people. How important is Jesus in your daily life? How often do you think of Jesus or talk about Jesus?
- What does it mean to live with Jesus as the center of your life?

MONDAY (12/21)

“The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love” (Zephaniah 3:17).

- In Jesus, God has shown us his desire to be in our midst and dwell among us. How aware are you of God’s presence throughout your day?
- What is your reaction to the idea that God “rejoices over you” and that he desires to “renew you in his love”?

TUESDAY (12/22)

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior... He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever” (Luke 1:46-47,54-55).

- Are you able to say with Mary, “my spirit rejoices in God my savior”? How has your faith and your relationship with God brought joy to your life?
- What things in your life hinder or distract you from living the joy of the Gospel? How can you maintain joy in the midst of difficulties?

WEDNESDAY (12/23)

“Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand” (Luke 21:28).

- Christmas is right around the corner. What are you most looking forward to in celebrating Christmas?
- How has Advent been for you? What can you do to share the joy of Christmas with others this year?

THURSDAY (12/24)

“In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace” (Luke 1:78-79).

- Jesus is the light of the world, a light which the darkness cannot overcome. Considering this image of “light” - how has your life been illuminated by Jesus?
- How can God use you as a light in darkness, hope in the face of death, and peace in the midst of brokenness?

FRIDAY (12/25)

“I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).

- MERRY CHRISTMAS!
- **“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13).**
 - Let us commit ourselves this year to be people of joy and hope as we seek to be God’s instruments of restoration in the salvation of the world.